

**Released: October 1, 2010**

**It's Official: Wichita Hailstone Certified State Record for Diameter  
Measured 7.75 inches in Diameter**

WICHITA, Kan. – Members of the six-person State Climate Extremes Committee have declared a hailstone recovered in west Wichita after a storm Sept. 15, 2010, to be the state of Kansas' largest diameter stone.



Figure 1 - Courtesy Melissa McCarter

The hailstone fell near Pawnee and 119<sup>th</sup> Street after a severe thunderstorm dropped giant hail in a wide swath from Goddard to Udall. Up to softball-sized hail caused significant damage to roofs, vehicles and lawns, according to Mary Knapp, state climatologist and director of the Weather Data Library at Kansas State University.

The hailstone measured 7.75 inches in diameter shortly after the stone fell in west Wichita. However, the official weight and circumference were not able to be obtained until 15 hours after the stone had fallen. At that time, the stone weighed 1.1 pounds and had a circumference of 15.5 inches. That information was submitted to the state climate extremes

committee, which was able to meet Thursday afternoon.

"This has been quite a summer for large hail," said Jim Keeney, weather program manager at National Weather Service Central Region Headquarters in Kansas City. "We had a national-record stone recovered in South Dakota earlier and another is being examined as a possible state record in Oklahoma. These hailstones are significant recoveries, but they are records we wish we didn't see."

Some wonder what took so long to verify the measurements. The reality is that it takes some time to document all of the measurements, and record the procedures. "Questions arose around a National Climatic Data Center STORM DATA report from September 1970 of 7-8-inch hail," said Knapp. "It was determined that those values hadn't been documented, so the current stone claims the record. Careful documentation will minimize questions that might arise the next time a large stone is recovered."

Final verification of the hailstone's record status came from NOAA's National Climatic Data Center through the State Climate Extremes Committee.

An in-depth report on the storm with photos and graphics is available on the Wichita office web page at [http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ict/scripts/viewstory.php?STORY\\_NUMBER=2010091902](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ict/scripts/viewstory.php?STORY_NUMBER=2010091902). And for those who have collected a record-size hailstone, some guidelines for documenting the event can be found at <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/scec/reports/SCEC-Hail-Guide.pdf>

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